

Covid 19 Update  
May 21, 2020

There has been one new antibody case since Tuesday. The state is reporting more cases but we think they are including nursing homes.

Phase One of the reopening has started. Next week, our Library will be offering curbside pick up, probably toward the end of the week.

Our beaches are open, in fact, they never closed unlike many state beaches. Lifeguards will be at our public beaches starting on June 15, which is a couple of weeks earlier than usual. Beach stickers have been required since May 15 and we will be enforcing. At this point, we will not take away parking spaces unless the beaches get so crowded that social distancing is not possible. We will have trash receptacles but if they are full, please take your trash with you. All guidelines will be posted at the beaches and on the Town website.

Town athletic fields will open on May 25th with the exception of the High School Athletic complex. The new fields are still under the control of the contractor and the other facilities have created crowding issues so they are off limits for the time being. Please note that the only activities allowed are non contact sports and those sports with no shared equipment. We understand this is a challenge. Guidelines will be posted on the Town website.

Playgrounds are Phase Two, so they won't open until at least June 8th. We will keep you posted. We will likely open the Dog Park next week when we get signage with rules spelled out but since it is fenced, it is considered a closed space and so, masks will be required. There will be no water service because it is "shared".

Widows Walk is doing very well. You can now make tee times and pay remotely.

On Memorial Day weekend, please remember you can't have a gathering of more than 10 people. Don Knapp, our veterans agent, has arranged to have flags placed on all veterans graves throughout town. There will also be a video on Scituate Cable TV this weekend honoring our veterans. If you have a flag that can be raised and lowered, the protocol is to lower it to half staff in the morning and raised to full staff after noon time.

The Economic Development Commission, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and many others, is launching "Scituate Loves Local", a campaign to support our local businesses. Our town is very lucky to have a wonderful business community that has supported our schools, athletic leagues, and non profits so generously and now it's time for all of us to help them. The Board of Health is working closely with this group. Please shop local whenever you can!

We know there are many issues and unanswered questions but everyone wants to help. For example, the Mass Municipal Association has asked the State to loosen regulations on the process of applying for outdoor seating at restaurants so local government can make decisions more quickly. The Chamber of Commerce is making webinars available for businesses so they can get answers to their questions. And, rather than the Town telling businesses what to do, the Board of Selectmen would prefer that businesses tell us how we can help. We will be as supportive as possible.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please note that property taxes are due on June 1.

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend and many, many thanks to all of our veterans.